

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9 and 18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19, 20, 21 and 27 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image ~~recording~~ sensing apparatus including image sensing means for sensing an object and embedding means for embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing means, comprising:

means for setting ~~a first item for defining a mode for~~ an image sensing mode ~~for~~ the image sensing means; and

means for setting ~~a second item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding means on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode,

wherein said image sensing means senses an object on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode, and

said embedding means executes the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing means in accordance with the embedding mode ~~on the basis of the second item~~.

2. (Currently Amended) An image ~~recording~~ sensing apparatus including image sensing means for sensing an object and embedding means for embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing means, comprising:

means for setting ~~a third item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding means; and

means for setting ~~a fourth item~~ for defining ~~a mode~~ an image sensing mode for the image sensing means on the basis of the ~~third item~~ embedding mode,

wherein said image sensing means senses an object on the basis of the ~~fourth item~~ image sensing mode, and

said embedding means executes the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing means in accordance with the embedding mode ~~on the basis of the third item~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first or fourth item~~ the image sensing mode defines values associated with an exposure time and aperture of said apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first or fourth item~~ the embedding mode defines a value associated with a continuous-exposure frame count of said apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first or fourth item~~ the image sensing mode defines a value associated with image quality of a sensed image.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the first or fourth item~~ the image sensing mode defines a value associated with sensitivity with respect to an amount of light received.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the second or third item~~ the embedding mode defines a type of watermarking represented by the predetermined data to be embedded.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~the second or third item~~ the embedding mode defines a value associated with an embedding strength of the predetermined data.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) An image ~~recording~~ sensing method including ~~the~~ an image sensing step of sensing an object and ~~the~~ an embedding step of embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing step, comprising:

the step of setting ~~a first item for defining a mode for~~ an image sensing mode for the image sensing step; and

the step of setting ~~a second item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding step on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode,

wherein the image sensing step comprises sensing an object on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode, and

the embedding step comprises executing the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing step in accordance with the embedding mode ~~on the basis of the second item~~.

11. (Currently Amended) An image ~~recording~~ sensing method including ~~the an~~ image sensing step of sensing an object and ~~an embedding~~ the step of embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing step, comprising:

the step of setting ~~a fourth item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding step; and

the step of setting ~~a fourth item~~ for defining a mode an image sensing mode for the image sensing step on the basis of the ~~third item~~ embedding mode,

wherein the image sensing step comprises sensing an object on the basis of the ~~fourth item~~ image sensing mode, and

the embedding step comprises executing the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing step in accordance with the embedding mode ~~on the basis of the third item~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein ~~the first or fourth item~~ the image sensing mode defines values associated with an exposure time and aperture of said image recording apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~first or fourth item~~ embedding mode defines a value associated with a continuous-exposure frame count of said image recording apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~first or fourth item~~ image sensing mode defines a value associated with image quality of a sensed image.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~first or fourth item~~ image sensing mode defines a value associated with sensitivity with respect to an amount of light received.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~second or third item~~ embedding mode defines a type of watermarking represented by the predetermined data to be embedded.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~second or third item~~ embedding mode defines a value associated with an embedding strength of the predetermined data.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing a code for executing ~~the~~ an image sensing step of sensing an object and a code for executing ~~the~~ an embedding step of embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing step, comprising:

a code for executing the step of setting ~~a first item for defining a mode for an~~ image sensing mode for the image sensing step; and

a code for executing the step of setting ~~a second item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding step on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode,

wherein the code for executing the image sensing step comprises sensing an object on the basis of the ~~first item~~ image sensing mode, and

the code for executing the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing means executes embedding in accordance with the embedding mode ~~step comprises executing the embedding on the basis of the second item.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing a code for executing ~~the~~ an image sensing step of sensing an object and a code for executing ~~the~~ an embedding step of embedding predetermined data in image data obtained by the image sensing step, comprising:

a code for executing the step of setting ~~a third item~~ an embedding mode for defining ~~a mode~~ an embedding method for the embedding step; and

a code for executing the step of setting ~~a fourth item for defining a mode~~ an image sensing mode for the image sensing step on the basis of ~~third item~~ embedding mode, and

the code for executing the embedding step comprises executing the embedding of the predetermined data in the image data obtained by the image sensing means in accordance with the embedding mode ~~on the basis of the third item~~.

21. (Currently Amended) An image ~~recording~~ sensing apparatus having image sensing means, comprising:

selection means for selecting one of a plurality of image sensing modes;

embedding means for embedding information as a watermark in an image;

determination means for determining, in accordance with the image sensing mode selected by said selection means, whether to activate said embedding means; and

control means for, when said determination means determines that the information is to be embedded, performing control to activate said embedding means to embed the information in the image data sensed by said image sensing means.

22. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the information includes information specifying a user name, image sensing date, and image recording apparatus.

23. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

said embedding means comprises first embedding means for embedding information as a visible watermark in an image, and second embedding means for embedding information as an invisible watermark in an image, and

said determination means comprises means for determining one of said first and second embedding means when embedding is to be performed.

24. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

said embedding means comprises first embedding means for embedding information with priority given to image quality of an image in which the information is to be embedded, and second embedding means for embedding information with priority given to robustness of the information to be embedded, and

means for determining one of said first and second embedding means when information is to be embedded.

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein

said embedding means comprises first embedding means for embedding information as a visible watermark in an image, second embedding means for embedding information as an invisible watermark in an image with priority given to image quality of the image in which the information is to be embedded, and third embedding means for embedding information as an invisible watermark in an image with priority given to robustness of the information to be embedded, and

said determination means comprises means for determining one of said first to third embedding means when embedding is to be performed.



26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said determination means determines, in accordance with image quality set when a sensed image is stored in a predetermined storage medium, whether to perform embedding.

27. (Currently Amended) A control method for an image ~~recording~~ sensing apparatus having image sensing means, comprising:

the selection step of selecting one of a plurality of image sensing modes;

the embedding step of embedding information as a watermark in an image;

the determination step of determining, in accordance with the image sensing mode selected in the selection step, whether to activate the embedding step; and

the control step of, when it is determined in the determination step that the information is to be embedded, performing control to activate the embedding step to embed the information in the image data sensed in the image sensing step.